meeting the full demand of LPG in the affected markets. Kerosene is an allocated product. Release of Kerosene during 1992-93 and 1993-94 was in accordance with allocations made to the State.

Exploration of oil reserves by International Companies

5730. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to open the exploration of oil reserves to international companies in the areas exclusively reserved for ONGC;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any negotiations have been made with the foreign companies in this regard; if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, the manner in which Government propose to open the exploration of the oil reserves to international companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Government to India offers specified blocks for exploration of oil and gas on a continuous round-the-year basis at an interval of about six months. These blocks are identified by the Government of India after consultation with ONGC and OIL, and cover areas where ONGC & OIL do not have firm exploration programmes in the near future. After receipt of bids, negotiations with the bidders are held and Production Sharing Contracts are signed with the successful bidders.

Import of petroleum products

5731. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import petroleum products during 1994-95; and

(b) if so, the nature of the deals finalised for the import of petroleum products stating the quantity of the petroleum products proposed to be imported; the cost involved (in foreign exchange) and the estimated rise in the demand of petroleum products during 1994-95 and the estimated indigenous production to meet the demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation have so far finalised contracts for supplies of following quantities of petroleum products during 1994-95:

(Quantity/MMT)*
(Value in US $/Million)*

	SKO	HSD	LPG	FO	LUBES	TOTAL
Quantity	1.000	2.024	0.087	0.050	0.033	3.194
Value	210	396	17	4	15	642

*Provisional.

The estimated rise in demand of petroleum products in 1994-95 is about 5.8% (Provisional) over 1993-94.

The estimated indigenous production is likely to be 51.74 MMT to meet this demand.